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tax upon the atmosphere and its accessions of gas from vulcanism than it might otherwise seem. The intimate association of glacial deposits with the Permo-Carboniferous coal beds in the comparatively low latitudes of India, South Africa, and Australia furthermore raise the suspicion that some of this vegetal accumulation at least may have taken place at a time when there was only a limited heat-absorbing and heat-retaining blanket of carbon dioxide about the earth.

In the special part is a discussion of the coals of the Carboniferous. This is followed by an excellent description of the salient features of the geology of the various coal districts in Europe in which are included something of the stratigraphy of the beds adjacent to the coal, the tectonics of each region, and the character of the coal developed under these conditions. The details of the geology of these special districts can of course be appreciated better by the European geologist than by those on this side of the Atlantic. They constitute the bulk of the book and appear to have been treated with much care and discrimination. The work is a valuable contribution to the literature of the coal formations.

R. T. C.

A Geologic Reconnaissance of the Island of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago. I. Narrative of the Expedition. By WARREN D. SMITH, Chief of Division of Mines. Philippine Jour. of Science, Dec., 1908, pp. 473-99, with 23 plates and 4 figures in the text.

Another instalment of the pioneer field work being done in the Philippine Islands by this active young geologist has come to hand. Up to this time very little has been known of the large southern island of Mindanao, partly because work in other important fields was more urgent and partly because of the hostility of the Moros. This paper gives a brief synopsis of the previous work of a geographic or geologic nature, a general geographic description, notes on the people and climate, and the itinerary and narrative of the expedition. The geologic observations appear with the text of the narrative. An excursion was made to the summit of Mount Apo, which, so far as known, is the highest peak in the Philippine archipelago. Two boiling-point determinations gave it an altitude of 2,956 and 2,902 meters, respectively.

In work of this sort many difficulties were naturally encountered and a military escort was required as a protection against the natives. Upon the basis of this reconnaissance the future detailed studies of this portion of the Philippine archipelago will be planned.

R. T. C.